

**WHAT'S ON**

**Selim Al Deen Memorial Programme**  
Marking Natyacharya's 6th Death Anniversary  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 14-16  
Time: 3pm

**Zainul Quamrul Exhibition**  
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum  
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18  
Time: 10am-8pm

**13th Dhaka International Film Festival**  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, EMK Center, National Museum and Public Library

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Bahram  
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 10-22  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Album Launch**  
Title: Boshonto Batashey and Kon Kale Tor Hobe Dishe  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 15  
Time: 6:30pm

NEWS bytes

Katy Perry hits million with "Prism"



Katy Perry's new album, "Prism", officially sold over one million albums last week, making it her third platinum-selling album. The album sold 51,000 copies last week, bringing its cumulative tally to 1,020,000 in 11 weeks on sale. The album follows 2008's "One of the Boys" and 2010's "Teenage Dream" in the million-selling category in the US. The latter took 20 weeks to hit that amount, going on to be certified double-platinum by the RIAA. According to Billboard, the success of the album stems largely from its first single, "Roar", which spent two weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Source: Billboard

Divine melodies, unbound devotion

Kazi Nazrul Islam's Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs in focus

ZAHANGIR ALOM

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam left a diverse musical legacy. His outpouring of spiritual passion was evident in the composition of timeless devotional genres: be it Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs or Shyama Sangeet, Kirtan and Bhajan is evocative of surrender to the Almighty. Nazrul sang the songs of the human spiritual quest irrespective of religion, caste and creed.

Nazrul's song "O Mon Ramzaner Oi Rojar Sheshe" always invokes the Holy Eid-ul-fitr spirit in Bangalee life, while "Masjideri Pashe Amar Kabor Diyo Bhai" speaks of the poets desire to listen to Azaan (the call for prayers ) even from his grave.

His composition of Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs are many. "Ami Jodi Arab Hotam", "Bishwa Dulali Nabi Nandini" "Bokkhe Amar Kaba'r Chhobi", "E Kon Modhur Sharab Dile", "Hey Modinabashi Premik", "Hey Priyo Nabi Rasul Amar", "Khodari Premier Sharab Piye", "Mohammad Mor Noyonmoni", "Mohammad Nam Jotoi Jopi" "Moru Shahara Aji Matoara", "Naam Mohammad Bol Re", "Taufiq Dao Khoda Islam-e" are such examples.

Noted Nazrul sangeet artistes MA Mannan and Yasmin Mushtari recently shared their thoughts on Nazrul's devotional lyrics with The Daily Star. Excerpts:

MA Mannan

It is really astounding to fathom how Kazi Nazrul Islam composed such a wide variety of devotional songs that equally moved people of both Muslim and Hindu communities. The hymns that state the accolades of the



Almighty are Hamd while the numbers that eulogise Prophet Muhammad SM (PBUH) are Naat-e-Rasul. The genres are generally rendered without the accompaniment of any instrument.

The numbers -- "Allah Amar Probhu", "Ei Shundor Phul Shundor Phol" are Hamd while the compositions "Tribhuboner Priyo Mohammad", "Tauhid-er-i Murshid Amar Mohammad-er Naam", and "Tora Dekhe Ja Amina

Mayer Kol-e" are Naat-e-Rasul. Nazrul's creation of Islamic songs always stirs our spiritual passion, in a sense that his composition of Shyama Sangeet, Bhajan and Kirtan evokes devotional passion among Hindu believers.

Nazrul is a symbol of humanity, a great human soul. It's a wonder that he enriched almost every aspect of Bangla music. The lyrics and tune of Nazrul's songs -- "Saharate Phutlo Re Phul",

"Mohammad Naam Jopechhili Bulbuli Tui Agye" and "Amina Dulal Nache Halimar Kol-e" -- have a soothing effect that moves everyone. Many mistakenly incorporate Nazrul's ghazal compositions with his devotional songs. A ghazal rather represents all the forms of higher love, either human or spiritual.

Yasmin Mushtari

Nazrul sang for mankind. He sang of their desire for embracing eternity or the Ultimate (creator). Our nation consists of people of different religions, castes and clans and Nazrul tried to unite all through his songs. His songs impartially appease souls of both Muslim and Hindu communities. Here Nazrul's uniqueness of sublime thoughts reigns supreme like that of a super human. His creation teaches us how to love and respect all human beings. This is wonderful because it makes us think of shaking off the paths of hostility, aggression, violence and bloodshed. The use of similes and metaphors in Nazrul's songs is subtle. Say for example, "Ami Dekhbo Kokhon Amar Eid-er Chand Mustafa Ke" metaphorically represents Prophet Muhammad (SM) as the moon. Again, there are many such examples in the songs "Mohammad-er Naam Jopechhi" like "Mor Nabirey Lukiye Dekhe, Taar Peshanir Jyoti Mekhe, Ore Chand Rangli Ki Tui Gabhir Anuraag-e".

The essence of Nazrul's lyrics strikes me and brings tears to my eyes. Eid-e-Miladunnabi is both the birth and death anniversary of our beloved Prophet. So, the day brings both happiness and sadness. Nazrul was a poet of humanity who called for harmony instead of religious extremism. Nazrul is a treasure trove, he is our hero. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



IT'S TRUE!



Jimmie Rodgers was an American country singer in the early 20th century, known most widely for his rhythmic yodeling. Among the first country music superstars and pioneers, Rodgers was also known as "The Singing Brakeman", "The Blue Yodeler", and "The Father of Country Music". Rodgers' affinity for entertaining came at an early age. By age 13, he had twice organised and begun traveling shows, only to be brought home by his father, who found him a job working on the railroad as a water boy. Here he was further taught to pick and strum by rail workers and hobos. As a water boy, he would have been exposed to the work chants of the African American railroad workers known as gandy dancers.

Suchitra on Oxygen support

Legendary Indian actress Suchitra Sen is still in critical condition, though conscious, and is surviving on constant oxygen support through endotracheal tube. A medical bulletin issued by Belle Vue Clinic, where she is admitted since December 23 following a respiratory tract infection, said the 82-year-old actress is on therapy, after which her oxygen saturation level and other ancillary blood reports are satisfactory.



Doctors attending her said after a sudden deterioration on Saturday evening, her medical condition has now stabilised and her heart rate and blood pressure are also stable.

Security cover was increased at the hospital by Kolkata Police as fans are anxious to get a glimpse of the yesteryear star, who has not been seen in public for the last three decades.

Source: TOI

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Gonayan's acclaimed play "Comrades Haat Namaan" drew a full house at the auditorium of District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong on Saturday evening.

Penned by Prabir Dutta, "Comrades Haat Namaan" narrates how the members of an opera troupe seek to catalyse social change by reviving the art form. In the process they overcome many obstacles and barriers, while zooming on in labour exploitation.

The country's present political crisis and rise of communal politics were also highlighted successfully in the play, directed by Asim Das, a teacher of Dramatics Department of Chittagong University.

The use of multimedia depicting the gruesome incidents of two World Wars, Vietnam War, French Revolution, anti-British movement and Liberation War of 1971 was praiseworthy.

The use of lights and fabric in the compositions with the tune of the



PHOTO: STAR

songs "Hai re amar mon matono", "Amra shobai raja", "Jodi tor dak shune" was also notable.

Theatre personality M Saiful Alam, chief of Gonyan Natya Samprodhay, told The Daily Star that Pablo Picasso's world famous painting "Guernica" was incorporated on the sets to create an ambiance of civil war.

"We, the peace loving people of the country, do not want civil war. We want to maintain communal harmony in the country", said Alam.

All the group members worked

hard to make the play a success, said director Asim Das adding that the presence of a large audience also inspired them.

Touhid Hasan Iqbal, Bappi Haider, Anirban Bhattacharya, Mamunul Haque, Mahmudul Haque Jihad, Imran Hossain, Abir Mandal, Shawkat Ali, Nazmul Huda and Shahidul Islam enacted important roles in the play.

Famed dramatist Asim Das also planned and designed the music, sets, lights and costumes in the play.

An inspiring tale

"Comrades Haat Namaan" spellbinds audience

Tanjina Toma performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre organised a musical evening by Bangladeshi singer Tanjina Toma on January 11 at its premises in the capital. She opened with "Swarthok Jonom Amar", with her setlist including Tagore songs "Bhalobeshe Sokhi Nibhrite Jotone", "Majhe Majhe Tobo Dekha Pai", "Tomar Khola Hawa"; Nazrul sangeet "O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati" and a Rajanikant song "Sekhane Se Doyal Amar". She was accompanied by Swarup Hossain on tabla, Md Nasirussin on guitar, Almas Ali on violin, Pradip Kumar Roy on mandira and Sunil Sarker on keys.

Tanjina Toma trained in Rabindra Sangeet at Chhayanaut, and under renowned gurus Waheedul Haque and Dr. Sanjida Khatun. She is serving as a teacher of Rabindra Sangeet in Chhayanaut for the last 10 years. The gifted artiste rendered her voice in "Valmiki Prathibha", a joint Bangladesh-India production in 2010, and also in a documentary entitled "Bangladeshey Rabindranath". She has also released two solo albums, "Modhu Jamini" from Bangladesh in 2011 and "Jibon Kotha" from Kolkata last year.



"American Hustle" takes three Golden Globes

Crime caper "American Hustle" has won three awards at the Golden Globes, including best film comedy or musical. Its female stars Amy Adams and Jennifer Lawrence also picked up best actress and supporting actress prizes for their roles in the 1970s-set movie.

Loosely based on a real-life FBI sting operation, it tells of con men enlisted to bring down a corrupt politician.

Steve McQueen's historical tale "12 Years a Slave" received the top honour of the night, winning best film (drama). It was the only award the movie was given, after going into the evening with seven nominations. McQueen and stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o had all received nods but came away from Sunday's event empty-handed.

Matthew McConaughey was named best actor in a drama for his role as Aids patient Ron Woodroof in "Dallas Buyers Club". His co-star Jared Leto won the best supporting actor prize for his depiction of a transgender woman. Cate Blanchett collected the best actress in a drama award for her part as a disgraced socialite in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine".



Leonardo DiCaprio, meanwhile, won best actor in a comedy or musical for "The Wolf of Wall Street". Alfonso Cuaron was named best director for "Gravity" - the only award the space movie picked up on the night. The Mexican beat McQueen, "Captain Phillips" director Paul Greengrass, Alexander Payne for



"Nebraska" and David O Russell for American Hustle to the director prize. The screenplay award went to Spike Jonze for "Her", a romance about an office worker who falls in love with a computer-generated voice.

Italian film "The Great Beauty" won the title of best foreign language film, while Disney's



(Clockwise from top left) Hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, and awardees Jennifer Lawrence, Leonardo DiCaprio and Matthew McConaughey with their Golden Globes.

"Frozen" took home the best animated feature award.

Robert Redford's film All is Lost won the best original score prize, while Irish band U2 won best original song for "Ordinary Love", as featured in "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom".

The results came too late to affect this week's Academy Award

nominations, for which ballots have already been cast. But the spread of results indicate that Oscar honours could well end up being shared between several films in March, rather than one movie sweeping the board.

Liberace biopic "Behind the Candelabra" was named best TV movie/mini-series, with Michael Douglas beating co-star Matt Damon to the best actor in a TV movie, series or mini-series prize. "Breaking Bad" also came away with two awards - best drama series and best actor in a drama for its star Bryan Cranston. Police caper "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" also collected two prizes - best comedy or musical TV series, and best actor in a comedy for Andy Samberg.

Ceremony co-host Amy Poehler won best actress in a TV comedy or musical for her role in "Parks and Recreation", while "House of Cards" star Robin Wright was named best actress in a drama series.

Amy Poehler and Tina Fey hosted the ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel for the second year running, earning big laughs with jokes about George Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio and Meryl Streep.

Source: BBC

TV WATCH

Special Eid-e-Miladunnabi programme on Banglavision

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi on the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar -- the day in 570 AD when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born, and passed away on the same day in 632 AD. The programme, titled "Jyotirmoy 12 Rabiul Awal, will have Islamic scholars -- Baitul Muqarram's Khatib Professor Moulana Md. Salahuddin, Md. Mokhtar Ahmad and Moulana Nazir Mahmud discuss the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Produced by Tareq Akhand and hosted by Professor D. Muhammad Abdur Rashid, it will be aired today at 5:25pm.